

Applicant: Bellotti, Alberto
Appln. No. 09/765,092
Filed: January 17, 2001
Page 14 of 18

Remarks/Arguments

Introduction

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that claim 1 recites the limitations "said software". The Examiner further states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims 1 and 14.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,742,905 to Pepe (hereinafter Pepe). Claim 1 and 14 have been amended. New claims 21-59 have been added.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot in view of the amendments.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Pepe. The Examiner contends that the Pepe patent meets all the limitations for claims 1-20 recited in the claimed invention. In addition, the Examiner contends that with respect to claims 2 and 4 Pepe discloses that the communications modes include text, audio, video (image), voice and combinations thereof and each station supports two-way, text, audio, video (image) and voice communications and combinations thereof. With respect to claim 3, the Examiner contends that

Pepe discloses that the application software includes text-to speech conversation capabilities. With respect to claims 5 and 6, the Examiner contends that Pepe discloses that the application software is configured to identify users accessing the stations and permit specific user access at each of the plurality of stations. With respect to claim 7, the Examiner contends that Pepe discloses a communication server connected to the plurality of stations. With respect to claims 8-11, the Examiner contends that Pepe discloses that the application software includes server-based software configured to effect communication between the plurality of stations and the communications server. With respect to claims 12-13, the Examiner contends that Pepe discloses that the station-based software includes message-indicating capability for providing an indication at the station of receipt of the communication and the message indicating capability includes graphic and audio indications and combinations thereof. With respect to claims 14-16 the Examiner has rejected these claims for the same reasons as set forth with respect to claims 1-4. With respect to claim 17-20, the Examiner contends that Pepe teaches the transferring step includes; entering the communication data at one of the plurality of stations; and selecting the one or more of the users of the network to who communication is desired and also selecting one or more of the stations to which communication is desired. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Pepe

Pepe describes a system for personal communications internetworking which provides a user with the ability to control and interface a variety of communication devices through a central networking device. Pepe describes a networking device for directing communications from a particular user to another particular user. In column 5, line 54, Pepe states:

“A Personal Communications Internetworking network ("PCI") 40 according to the present invention is connected between the wireless 39 and wireline networks 29. The PCI 40 permits the mobile communications subscriber to send and receive messages between disparate networks and messaging systems and a variety of service providers. The mobile communications subscriber can receive e-mail, fax, pages, and voice messages under a single phone number while using either a wireless or wireline network. The subscriber may also select the media format and serving network used to receive messages. The subscriber may also select cross-media notification of incoming messages, (i.e., the subscriber may receive notification from a pager message that a voice mail message was received).”

In contrast, the present invention as currently defined by amended independent claims 1 and 14 is directed to a communication system using networked electronic stations for transmitting messages to and from a plurality of stations. In contrast to Pepe however, in the present invention, the messages are not directed to a particular subscriber or user, but can be

Applicant: Bellotti, Alberto
Appln. No. 09/765,092
Filed: January 17, 2001
Page 17 of 18

directed to a plurality of users for receipt at any particular station within the network. The present invention as claimed in amended claim 1 states said application software further configured to selectively transfer a plurality of messages to one of said stations to at least one of a plurality of users. Pepe fails to disclose this feature, and is instead directed to sorting and directing messages to a particular subscriber. Nowhere in Pepe is it disclosed to send a plurality of messages to a plurality of users at a particular station.

Accordingly, Pepe fails to disclose the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejections over Pepe are respectfully requested.

Further, Pepe fails to teach or suggest a communication system using networked electronic stations for transmitting messages to and from a plurality of stations. In contrast to Pepe however, in the present invention, the messages are not directed to a particular subscriber or user, but can be directed to a plurality of users for receipt at any particular station within the network. The present invention as claimed in amended claim 1 states said application software further configured to selectively transfer a plurality of messages to one of said stations to at least one of a plurality of users. Pepe fails to disclose this feature, and is instead directed to sorting and directing messages to a particular subscriber. Nowhere in Pepe is it disclosed to send a plurality of messages to a plurality of users at a particular station.

Applicant: Bellotti, Alberto
Appln. No. 09/765,092
Filed: January 17, 2001
Page 18 of 18


Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinct over
Pepe

Summary

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 14, and all claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Cannavale
Registration No.: 44,585
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700